

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

DRC-01 /094 W

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R 032029Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3269

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USUN NEW YORK 558

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 2908

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR KS

SUBJECT: POLITICAL MISSION OF THE NEW KOREAN AMBASSADOR
ACCREDITED TO VENEZUELA, HATI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
AND GUYANA

1. I RECEIVED A COURTESY CALL THIS MORNING FROM THE NEW KOREAN AMBASSADOR, KWANG JUNG SONG, WHO PRESENTED HIS LETTERS OF CREDENCE TO PRESIDENT PEREZ DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY. AMBASSADOR, WHO IS AN EXPERIENCED CAREER DIPLOMAT, HAVING SERVED IN WASHINGTON, BERLIN, LONDON AND THE HAGUE, SAID THAT OBVIOUSLY HIS MAIN JOB IN VENEZUELA AND THE OTHER COUNTRIES TO WHICH HE IS ACCREDITED WOULD BE TO FORESTALL ATTEMPTS BY PYONGYANG TO PUSH THE THESIS THAT THERE SHOULD BE ONE UNIFIED KOREA UNDER THE AUSPICES OF KIM IL SONG. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HOPED TO KEEP THE LEGAL CONCEPT OF TWO KOREAS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THERE MIGHT BE AN EVENTUAL INTEGRATION OF THE PENINSULA BUT NOT UNDER COMMUNIST TERMS.

2. I TOLD MY NEW COLLEAGUE THAT, GIVEN THE ANTECEDENTS
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OF PRESIDENT PEREZ, WHO HAD BEEN A VIGOROUS ANTI-COMMUNIST

FIGHTER WHEN HE WAS MINISTER OF INTERIOR IN A PREVIOUS ADECO GOVERNMENT, THERE DID NOT SEEM MUCH RISK OF HIS ACCEDING TO OVERTURES FROM NORTH KOREA. I SAID LIKEWISE THAT FROM MY PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCESHIP WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND FROM THE FACT THAT THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT IS NERVOUS OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF CUBAN SUBVERSION, HE PROBABLY WOULD NOT FIND ANY DIFFICULTY IN ESTABLISHING HIS THESIS WHEN HE VISITED SANTO DOMINGO AND PORT AU PRINCE. I OUTLINED THE RIVALRIES IN GUYANA BETWEEN THE COMMUNIST LEADER CHEDDI JAGAN AND THE INCUMBENT PRESIDENT BURNHAM AND SPECULATED THAT A SIMILAR VIEW MIGHT PREVAIL IN GEORGETOWN, ALTHOUGH GUYANA HAD IN FACT RECOGNIZED CUBA.

3. KOREAN AMBASSADOR ASKED IF I WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH TO INFORM MY COLLEAGUES IN THE THREE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES OF HIS INTENTION TO PRESENT HIS LETTTTERS OF CREDENCE IN THE FAIRLY NEAR FUTURE AND SAID HE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY ASSISTANCE OUR EMBASSIES COULD PROVIDE. I SAID I WAS CERTAIN I COULD SPEAK FOR MY COLLEAGUES IN ASSURING HIM THAT WE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE HIS MISSION.

4. AMBASSADOR SONG SPEAKS NO SPANISH OR FRENCH. HIS JAPANESE-ACCENTED ENGLISH IS EXCELLENT. HE WAS MARRIED AT HIS FIRST POST, WASHINGTON, D.C., TO A KOREAN GIRL WHO WAS EDUCATED IN THE UNITED STATES AND WHO HE CLAIMS "IS MORE AMERICAN THAN KOREAN."
MCCLINTOCK

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